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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Applicant(s): Kazuhiko SHIROZA

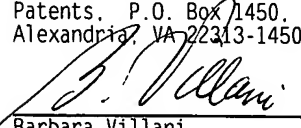
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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S I R :

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this
paper.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth in the listing of
claims beginning on page 5. Claims 1-11 are being amended. New
claims 12-18 are added.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and
include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet
showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.